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USDA looks at 'equivalency standard' for meat imports

FSIS regulators are analyzing the food safety standards of more than 24 countries that want to ship meat, poultry and eggs to the U.S. The agency will evaluate how a country tests and samples its meat and poultry products for safety and how products are labeled, said Mark Manis, director of international policy for the FSIS. Any standard must be based on science and not applied in an arbitrary way, he said. Regulators say they are trying to make the process as transparent as possible for the U.S. meat industry, consumer groups and countries with approval requests on the table. According to Manis, 37 countries have already been approved to export meat, poultry and/or egg products to the U.S. under the old trade rules. Those countries will be allowed to continue exporting the same products to the U.S. However, countries wanting to expand and export additional products will have to meet the new equivalence standards, he said. Defining "equivalency" could be one of the trickier trade issues facing the USDA over the next few months.

Source: WATTNET Homepage/Poultry Tribune

World Egg Markets

China is the world's largest producer of eggs, followed by the U.S., Japan, Russia and India. The European Union produces slightly more eggs than the U.S. when the individual countries' productions are combined. From 1994 to 1999 (projected) China increased production 35%, India 29% and the U.S. 11%. Japan and Russia were down 4%, the E.U. was unchanged.

The largest importers of eggs (less hatching) are Japan, Hong Kong and Canada, with the largest exporters being the U.S., the Netherlands, China and Turkey.

Source: USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service, Commodity and Marketing Programs, Dairy, Livestock and Poultry Division.

U.S.-China trade agreement to increase poultry exports

On April 10 the U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky and Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Development Shi Guangsheng signed a document to lift Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) bans and to open its market to U.S. pork, beef and poultry by agreeing to accept USDA certification for meat safety for U.S. exports. This agreement should boost U.S. poultry exports there by 10-20% per year on a continuing basis.

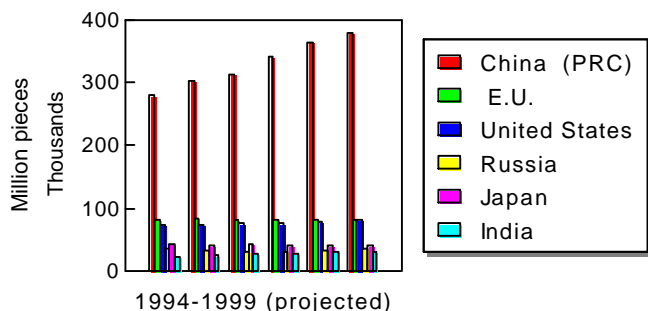
The agreement also commits China to substantial tariff reductions that will take effect upon accession and will be implemented incrementally by 2004, when all other WTO members will have implemented their Uruguay Round tariff cuts. Altogether, China will reduce its overall average tariff for agricultural products to 17%, with tariffs on U.S. priority products to drop to 14.5%. Specific examples include poultry dropping from a current tariff of 20% to 10% by 2004. Beef would go from 45% to 12% and pork from 20% to 12%.

U.S. poultry meat is the leading high-value agricultural export to China. According to the USA Poultry and Egg Export Council (USAPEEC) Monday Line newsletter, "China, at \$500 million annually, is our second-largest export market for poultry," said Gus Schumacher, USDA under secretary for farm and foreign agricultural services. 'The Agreement on U.S.-China Agricultural Cooperation provides a solid SPS grounding for our current exports. When China fully accedes to the WTO, it will give us 50 percent lower tariffs which provides a strong basis for solid future growth.'

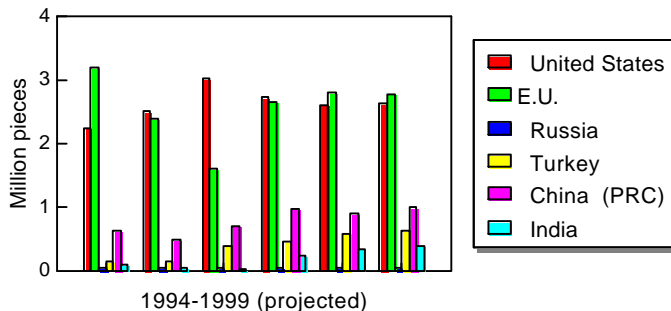
The above agreement, while signaling China's commitment to the WTO, is independent of its accession bid to the organization. China's accession to the WTO remains an uncertainty, but the bilateral agreement is a decisive step in the right direction.

Sources: USDA/Foreign Agricultural Services, <http://www.fas.usda.gov/> and USAPEEC, <http://www.usapeec.org/> and WATTNET Homepage/Poultry Tribune

Egg Production



Egg Exports



INSPECTED EGG PRODUCTS**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

	Week Ending April 17, 1999		Year-To-Date	
Type	1999	1998 /1	1999	1998
Liquid	391	192	4,127	3,728
Frozen	0	0	6	50
Dried	0	0	174	170
Total	391	192	4,307	3,948

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (Preliminary)

	Week Ending April 17, 1999		Year-To-Date	
Type	1999	1998 /1	1999	1998
Liquid	34	0	1,207	1,200
Frozen	5	0	90	99
Dried	0	12	10	25
Total	39	12	1,307	1,324

Inspected Shell Eggs

U.S. Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)

	Week Ending April 17, 1999		Year-To-Date	
	1999	1998 /1	1999	1998
Jumbo	11	44	138	153
Extra Large	928	336	8,005	9,608
Large	532	3,218	25,352	25,759
Medium	1,575	2,321	13,751	16,205
Ungraded	10,960	9,535	83,159	49,622
Misc	750	0	1,650	1,710
Total	14,756	15,454	132,055	103,057

/1 Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch in cooperation with Agriculture Canada, Poultry Development Division.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER INSPECTION W/E 17-Apr-99
PRELIMINARY**U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY (000'S)**

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	2,510	1,343	3,853
LAST WEEK	2,098	1,318	3,416
SAME WEEK YR AGO	2,433	1,254	3,687
TO-DATE/1999	32,613	19,959	52,572
TO-DATE/1998	30,637	18,607	49,244

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	441	0	441
LAST WEEK	571	0	571
SAME WEEK YR AGO	554	13	567
TO-DATE/1999	7,328	114	7,442
TO-DATE/1998	8,225	125	8,350

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, PLTRY DEVELOPMENT DIV.

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	2,951	1,343	4,294
LAST WEEK	2,669	1,318	3,987
SAME WEEK YR AGO	2,987	1,267	4,254
TO-DATE/1999	39,941	20,073	60,014
TO-DATE/1998	38,862	18,732	57,594

CENTRAL REGION PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND FOR DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.
April 23, 1999**CHICKEN PRICES**

	-----FROZEN-----		-----FRESH-----	
FAT	FOB	DELIVERED	FOB	DELIVERED
CONTENT	DOCK		DOCK	
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

0 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

CHICKEN PRICES, WITH ADDED SKIN

15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	14.00	-
WTD AVERAGE			14.00	

40,800 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

15-20%				
RANGE	10.00-14.00	13.00	7.50-12.00	12.00-12.75
WTD AVERAGE	10.88	13.00	9.83	12.25

2,094,800 pounds, this includes 80,000 pounds for export shipment.

20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

0 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

* INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATES: AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MI, MN, MO, MS, ND, NE, OK, OH, SD, TN, TX, WI

EASTERN REGION PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND FOR DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.
April 23, 1999**CHICKEN PRICES**

	-----FROZEN-----		-----FRESH-----	
FAT	FOB	DELIVERED	FOB	DELIVERED
CONTENT	DOCK		DOCK	
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	14.00-16.00	-	17.00	15.00-17.00
WTD AVERAGE	15.11		17.00	16.50

1,046,600 pounds, this includes 250,000 pounds for export shipment.

CHICKEN PRICES, WITH ADDED SKIN

15% OR LESS				
RANGE	14.00	16.00	13.41	-
WTD AVERAGE	14.00	16.00	13.41	

200,800 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

15-20%				
RANGE	11.00-14.00	14.00	9.50-12.00	13.00-16.00
WTD AVERAGE	11.90	14.00	11.12	14.00

1,835,600 pounds, this includes 40,000 pounds for export shipment.

20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

0 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

* INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATES: CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT, WV

YOUNG TURKEY PARTS AND BULK MEAT, FROZEN (UNLESS SPECIFIED), CENTS PER LB., DELIVERED FIRST RECEIVERS, PART AND FULL TRUCKLOTS

APRIL 23, 1999

Trade sentiment steady to weak on fresh tom breast meat, steady at best on destrapped and whole tenderloins, breast trim steady. Demand and trading starting to slow on various items as industry members start departing for a major poultry convention next week. Demand light to fair on wing meat with offerings not as tight when compared to previous weeks. Offerings of full-cut wings adequate to ample with toms longest, 2-joint wings light, regular breast trim light with adequate to fully adequate offerings of ground noted. For export: tom defatted gizzards (1 container) 56 cents delivered.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1999**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)	WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICE	WEEKLY VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	16.00		16.00	24	16.66	376
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS	22.00		22.00	15	23.45	55
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM	18.50		18.50	104	18.50	104
TAILS		W	21.00	56	17.76	136
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/	12.50-15.00		13.75	80	13.17	120
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	42.00		42.00	208	41.94	914

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1999**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	16.50		16.50	208
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		M	24.00	40
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM		F	18.00	208
TAILS		W	21.00	56
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/		W	12.00	40
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	42.00-43.50		42.34	290

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1999**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	17.00		17.00	144
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		M	24.00	40
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM		F	18.00	208
TAILS	20.00-22.00		21.00	56
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/	12.00		12.00	40
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	39.00-42.00		41.36	364

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1999**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		W	16.25	208
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		M	24.00	40
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM		F	18.00	208
TAILS	15.50		15.50	80
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/		W	13.33	240
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		M	43.50	52

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1999**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		W	16.25	208
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS	24.00		24.00	40
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM		F	18.00	208
TAILS		F	18.13	208
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/		W	13.33	240
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	43.50		43.50	52

1/ CODES FOR LAST SIGNIFICANT TRADE (L.S.T.): M=MONDAY T=TUESDAY W=WEDNESDAY R=THURSDAY F=FRIDAY

2/ Product contains 15-20% fat with skin added.